AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A sustained-release preparation which comprises:

a drug having a molecular weight of about 10,000 or less; and

a gelatin hydrogel,

wherein the drug is impregnated into said gelatin hydrogel through a surface thereof and is ~~maintained~~ immobilized in said hydrogel by physiochemical interaction, and

said hydrogel having ~~wherein~~ a concentration gradient of the drug ~~is formed in the hydrogel,~~ such that said concentration gradient being higher at said surface than in other parts of said hydrogel in said sustained-release preparation, and the drug is immobilized within said hydrogel by said physiochemical interaction, and

said sustained-release preparation is sterile.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method of sustained release of a drug in vivo comprising:

administering a sustained-release preparation to a patient in need thereof, said preparation comprising a drug having a molecular weight of about 10,000 or less and a gelatin hydrogel, wherein said hydrogel has a concentration gradient of the drug ~~is formed in the hydrogel,~~ in said

sustained-release preparation, wherein degradation of the gelatin hydrogel *in vivo* causes more drug to be released from a region with higher drug concentration, thereby giving said sustained release of the drug, wherein the drug is impregnated into said gelatin hydrogel through a surface thereof and is ~~maintained~~ immobilized in said hydrogel by physiochemical interaction, said concentration gradient being higher at said surface than in other parts of said hydrogel, and said sustained-release preparation is sterile.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, where said administration is topical.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, wherein the drug is impregnated into said gelatin hydrogel by ionic bonding.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, wherein the preparation is in solid or semi-solid form.

7. **(New)** A sustained-release preparation which comprises:

a drug having a molecular weight of about 10,000 or less; and

a crosslinked gelatin hydrogel,

said sustained-release preparation being made by adding an aqueous solution of said drug dropwise to said crosslinked gelatin hydrogel, thereby impregnating said drug into said crosslinked gelatin hydrogel through a surface thereof, immobilizing said drug in said crosslinked gelatin hydrogel by physiochemical interaction between said drug and crosslinked

gelatin hydrogel, and forming a concentration gradient of the drug in the crosslinked gelatin hydrogel such that said concentration gradient is higher at said surface than in other parts of said hydrogel in said sustained-release preparation, wherein the amount of aqueous solution being added dropwise causes swelling of the crosslinked gelatin hydrogel and wherein said sustained-release preparation is sterile.

8. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, wherein said drug is an antitumor agent.

9. **(New)** The method of claim 3, wherein said drug is an antitumor agent.

10. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 7, wherein said drug is an antitumor agent.